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Please delete page "9/10" and "10/10" of the drawings, also labeled as "Reference Numerals In The Drawings" in its entirety.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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- 1 1. (Amended) A top sealing plate used for a battery,
2 comprising:
3 a filter, a cap, and a valve body,
4 wherein said filter includes a valve hole and upper opening;
5 said cap has a convex portion, and a flange portion disposed
A₇ 6 around said convex portion;
7 an opening end of said upper opening of said filter has a bend
8 portion;
9 an outer periphery end of said flange portion of said cap and said
10 bend portion include a caulked portion that is caulked and jointed to each
11 other;
12 said caulked portion is formed by caulking while said outer
13 periphery end of said flange is positioned in said bend portion;
14 said valve body is disposed to cover said valve hole, in a space
15 formed between said cap and said filter;
16 said caulked portion includes both contact states of (i) a strong
17 contact portion and (ii) a weak contact portion, between the surface of the outer
18 periphery end of said flange and said bend portion; and

19 said cap and said filter are electrically connected to each other by
20 the contact with said outer periphery end and said bend portion at said caulked
21 portion.

1 6. (Amended) A top sealing plate used for a battery,
2 comprising:

3 a filter, a cap, and a valve body,

4 wherein said filter includes a valve hole and upper
5 opening;

As 6 said cap has a convex portion, and a flange portion
7 disposed around said convex portion;

8 an opening end of said upper opening of said filter has a
9 bend portion;

10 an outer periphery end of said flange portion of said cap
11 and said bend portion include a caulked portion that is caulked and
12 jointed to each other;

13 said caulked portion is formed by caulking while said
14 outer periphery end is positioned in said bend portion;

15 said valve body is disposed to cover said valve hole, in a
16 space formed between said cap and said filter;

17 a surface of said outer periphery end of said flange has a
18 projection;

19 said outer periphery end including the plurality of
20 projections and said bend portion are caulked;

21 said strong contact portion is formed with said
22 projection contacted on said bend portion; and

23 said cap and said filter are electrically connected to each
24 other, by contact between said outer periphery end at the caulked
25 portion and said bend portion.

1 12. (Amended) A top sealing plate used for a battery,
2 comprising:

3 a filter, a cap, and a valve body,

4 wherein said filter includes a valve hole and upper
5 opening;

6 said cap has a convex portion, and a flange portion
7 disposed around said convex portion;

8 an opening end of said upper opening of said filter has a
9 bend portion;

10 an outer periphery end of said flange portion of said cap
11 and said bend portion include a caulked portion that is caulked and
12 jointed to each other;

13 said caulked portion is formed by caulking while said
14 outer periphery end is positioned in said bend portion;

15 said valve body is disposed to cover said valve hole, in a
16 space formed between said cap and said filter

17 a surface of said outer periphery end of said flange has a
18 projection;

19 said outer periphery end including said projection and
20 said bend portion are caulked;

21 said cap and said filter are electrically connected to each
22 other, by contact between said outer periphery end at said caulked
A₉ 23 portion and said bend portion;

24 the distance from a mating face of said filter and cap to
25 the peak of said projection is greater than the thickness of said
26 flange portion; and

27 each of the peaks has a stronger contact pressure against
28 said bend portion of said filter as compared with zones other than
29 said peaks.

1 14. (Amended) A top sealing plate used for a battery,
2 comprising:

A₁₀ 3 a filter, a cap, and a valve body,

4 wherein said filter includes a valve hole and upper
5 opening;

6 said cap has a convex portion, and a flange portion
7 disposed around said convex portion;

8 an opening end of said upper opening of said filter has a
9 bend portion;

10 an outer periphery end of said flange portion of said cap
11 and said bend portion include a caulked portion that is caulked and
12 jointed to each other;

13 said caulked portion is formed by caulking while said
14 outer periphery end is positioned in said bend portion;

15 said valve body is disposed to cover said valve hole, in a
16 space formed between said cap and said filter;

17 said cap and said filter are electrically connected to each
18 other, by contact between said outer periphery end at said caulked
19 portion and said bend portion;

20 said caulked portion includes an integral projection such
21 that said outer periphery end and said bend portion are integrally
22 projected;

23 said integral projection is formed by pressing a
24 protuberant tool from above the bend portion, in a state that said
25 outer periphery end is positioned in said bend portion; and

26 said integral projection has a stronger contact pressure
27 as compared with zones other than said integral projection.

1 16. (Amended) A battery, comprising:

2 a battery case, a positive electrode, a negative electrode,
3 electrolyte, a gasket, and a top sealing plate,

4 wherein said positive electrode, said negative electrode,
5 and said electrolyte are disposed in said battery case;

6 said battery case has an opening;

7 said top sealing plate is disposed at the opening of said
8 battery case, in a state of being electrically insulated by said gasket
9 so as to close said battery case;

10 said filter is electrically connected to said positive
11 electrode;

12 said top sealing plate comprises a filter, cap, and valve
13 body;

14 said filter has a valve hole and upper opening;

15 said cap has a convex portion, and a flange portion
16 disposed around said convex portion;

17 an opening end of said upper opening of said filter has a
18 bend portion;

19 an outer periphery end of said flange portion of said cap
20 and said bend portion include a caulked portion that is caulked and
21 joined to each other;

22 said caulked portion is formed by caulking while said
23 outer periphery end is positioned in said bend portion;

24 said valve body is disposed to cover said valve hole, in a
25 space formed between said cap and said filter;

A₁₁ 26 said caulked portion includes both states of contact of (i)
27 a strong contact portion and (ii) a weak contact portion, between the
28 surface of the outer periphery end of said flange and said bend
29 portion; and

30 said cap and said filter are electrically connected to each
31 other, due to contact established between said outer periphery end
32 and said bend portion at said caulked portion.

1 23. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a battery,
2 comprising the steps of:

3 (a) disposing a positive electrode, a negative electrode,
4 and electrolyte in a battery case;

A₁₂ 5 (b) manufacturing a top sealing plate;

6 (c) electrically connecting said filter and said positive
7 electrode; and

8 (d) disposing said top sealing plate at the opening of said
9 battery case via an electrical insulating gasket in order to close the
10 opening,

11 wherein the step of manufacturing said top sealing plate
12 comprises the steps of:

13 (1) forming a filter having a valve hole and upper
14 opening;

15 (2) bending the opening end of the upper opening of said
16 filter, to form a bend portion;

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17 (3) forming a cap having a convex portion and a flange
18 portion disposed around said convex portion;

19 (4) caulking to join the outer periphery end to said bend
20 portion while the surface and back of the outer periphery end of said
21 flange portion of said cap are positioned in said bend portion, to
A₁₂ 22 form a caulked portion; and

23 (5) disposing a valve body serving to cover the valve
24 hole in a space formed between said cap and said filter, and

25 wherein the step of forming said caulked portion
26 includes a step of electrically connecting said cap and filter to each
27 other by contacting the outer periphery end at said caulked portion
28 with said bend portion so that said caulked portion includes both
29 states of contact of (i) a strong contact portion and (ii) a weak
30 contact portion, between the surface of the outer periphery end of
31 said flange and said bend portion.

Respectfully Submitted,


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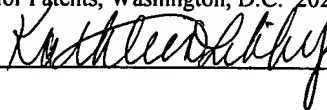
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